

30 April 1984

2 MAY 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Legislative Liaison
FROM: ✓ Chief, Liaison Division
SUBJECT: Preliminary Thoughts SSCI Oversight

1. The Ed Levine memo on new oversight procedures does not seem to give us any trouble, but it does suffer from the same weaknesses that we have had all along from the SSCI: it limits our reporting to a specified series of items. If a new contentious item were to arise that is not on the list, we would have the same problem of failing to answer because we are not asked. It seems to me that the best way to get over this hurdle is to offer regular, perhaps every two weeks, briefings of the entire SSCI covert action compartment. During these briefings we should go over all current developments in all of the covert action programs. I can guess at the onset in bringing the SSCI up to date. After this update phase, however, I should think these briefings could be handled in an hour or so.

2. It is to our advantage to make a proposal to the SSCI before they propose something of their own for two reasons;

(a) We will be on record as to having volunteered help;

(b) We pre-empt the SSCI from creating some other format and rule that could be more difficult to live with. I should think that these briefs should be done

3. It seems to me to be important that we very closely enmesh the SSCI compartment both to give them the problem about what they should or should not brief members on, and to make sure that all members hear exactly the same thing from us rather than--as now--getting different stories from different people.